(b) if so, the names of such branches, location-wise and bank-wise with working hours in each case;

(c) whether certain banks in private sector have also set up special counters in different branches of country to exchange soiled and torn currency notes and to provide coins of different denominations on demand of people;

(d) if so, the names of such branches, location and bank-wise, with working hours in each case;

(e) whether the step has been taken to reduce the crowds in the Reserve Bank of India;

(f) whether Government propose to extend this facility through some more branches of different banks in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cases of Receiving Illegal Funds

2277. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate have dropped and even not registered the cases against those who have received illegal funds less than Rs. 2.5 lakhs from foreign countries;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether receiving of illegal funds are not violative of the FERA; and

(d) if so, what further action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Receiving of funds in the form of gifts by making counterpart payments in India is a violation of the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA).

(d) Action as envisaged under FERA will be taken against the guilty persons.

Smuggling of Mandrax

2278. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Mandrax Smuggling on the rise' as reported in the Statesman dated 9th January, 1995;

(b) whether smuggling of drug from foreign countries is increasing rapidly and no check is made by the security people;

(c) if so, the quantum of drugs (narcotics) seized during the last one year; and

(d) the number of persons arrested and the effective steps Government propose to take to curb smuggling of narcotics in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since smuggling of narcotics is a clandestine activity, it cannot be said definitely whether it has increased or otherwise. As per the available information, the quantity of the drugs seized by various agencies during the year 1994 is given as under:—

DRUGS	QUANTITY SEIZED (In Kg)
Opium	2248
Heroin	994
Ganja	184105
Hashish	6952
Methaqualone	43113

As far as mandrax (methaqualone) is concerned, it may be mentioned that this drug is smuggled from India to foreign countries, specially South Africa and the relative increase in the seizures of 1994 compared to the previous year would indicate that our enforcement agencies are fully alert and active.

(d) The number of persons arrested in 1994 is 14,717. Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in NDPS Act. Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication

equipments have been provided. A considerable part of Indo-Pak border has been fenced and flood lighted. BSF and coast Guards, who are deployed on land and coastal borders have been vested with the powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border in addition to the Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

Varying Rate of Interest of Loan

2279. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan on country and varying rates of interest on such loan;

(b) the total annual payment on account of interest;

(c) the total amount of loan the banks of country have disbursed in country in different categories and at what rates of interest; and

(d) what is the rate of interest of overseas banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The total amount of external debt (including NRI deposits and defence debt) outstanding on the country is estimated to be US $ 90.4 billion at the end of September 1994. The interest rates on these loans vary from loan to loan depending on the nature of the loan, the maturity period, currency and the source of lending.

(b) The total amount of interest payment on external loan was US $3718 million and US $ 3748 million during 1992-93 and 1993-94 respectively.

(c) and (d) Sectoral deployment of gross banks credit by major sectors as on March 1994 is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

	Outstanding as on March 18, 1994
Gross Bank Credit	1,56,836
Sector	
Public Food Procurement credit	10,907
Non-food Gross Bank credit	1,45,929
(a) Priority Sectors	53,875
(b) Industry (Medium & Large)	57,872
(c) wholesale Trade (other than food procurement)	7,334
(d) Other Sectors	26,848

The lending rates of scheduled commercial banks including foreign banks are as given below:

(percent per annum)

Size of credit limit New rates (effective October 18, 1994) All advances (including term loans)	
Upto and inclusive of Rs. 25,000/	12.0
Over Rs. 25,000 and upto Rs. 2 lakh	13.5
Over Rs. 2 lakh	Free.

Change in GDP rate

2280. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN PATHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the GDP rate after adopting new economic policy;

(b) the reasons for which there is no change in GDP rate; and

(c) whether Government are hopeful in change of GDP rate in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The Indian economy has responded smartly to wide ranging reform measures undertaken since July 1991. This is reflected in an acceleration in the rate of growth in gross domestic product at factor cost (at 1980-81 prices) from 0.9 per cent in 1991-92, 4.3 per cent in each of the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 to a projected 5.3 per cent during the current year.

Notices issued to various LICI Agents

2281. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Senior Devisional Manager of LICI, North-Central Zone has issued notices to various agents of LICI for reduction of their ranks in the club membership;

(b) whether it is a fact that LICI's decision to reduce the ranks of agents was the outcome of an effort to protect its offices from any embarrasment;

(c) whether some of these officers had been instrumental to seek false and fake business under the Salary Saving Schemes in order to raise business output of a given year; and